THE DRUMBEAT
Student media since 1927
Tyler Junior College

Vol. 88 | Issue 5 | October 25 - November 7, 2019

"Red Zone" on Page 6

Rose Parade on Page 8

'Criminal Mischief'

Three locations damaged on campus property

Photos by Robert Naylor

The impact left on the outside of the Facilities and Construction building.

The impact left behind at the Rogers Student Center the night of the IGDA event.

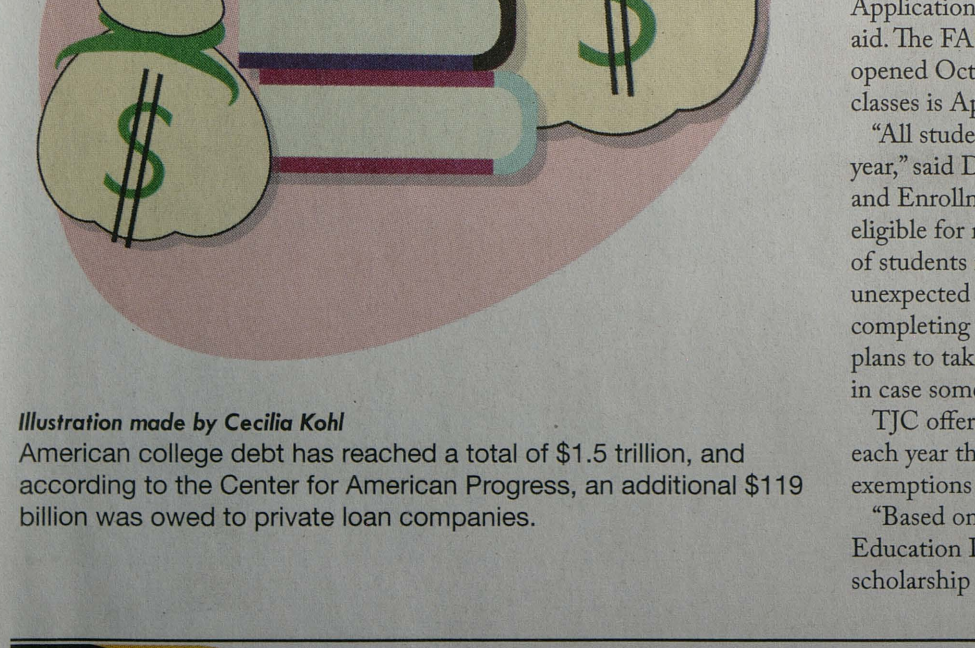
The impact impression left behind on a TJC campus vehicle the same night of the IGDA event.

Robert Naylor
Editor-in-Chief

Members of the International Game Developers Association witnessed a person shatter a window pane in the Apache Spirit Room at the Rogers Student Center at approximately 6:31 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21. At the time, no one knew whether the impact was caused by a rock, BB gun or potentially something more dangerous.

Campus police arrived at the scene two minutes after calls were made, and Daniel May, IGDA member, said police were unable to find the object that caused damage to the window pane. Campus police are investigating the event and has not commented on the incident at this time.

"All of a sudden I just hear something impact, and I hear glass shattering," said Kaitlyn Vest, vice president of IGDA. "I turned around and it looked sort of orangey-red; I thought a bird hit it. I didn't see anything stuck in there, and even though they (campus police) searched for something they didn't find anything."



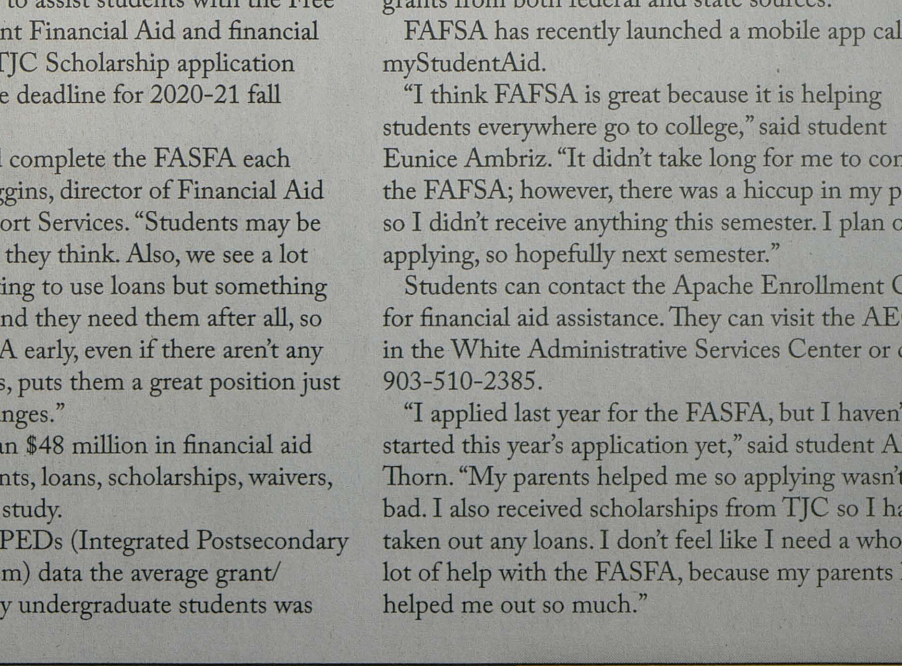
Additionally, the Frank L. Baldwin Facility and Construction Building had a campus vehicle damaged in a similar fashion. The facility and construction building is near the Rogers Student Center, behind the Wesley House.

A third incident, occurring a few days prior, involved the damaging of a wired half pane window on the front of the facility and construction building. This event was confirmed by Ray Morgan, supervisor of building maintenance for facilities and construction.

According to TJC incident report 20190599, the offense was considered criminal mischief, with references indicating that an unknown suspect broke a window in the Spirit Room.

This is the third incident of its kind and an Apache Alert, the campus' immediate emergency response system, was not sent out.

Check thedrumbeat.com for updates on the events surrounding these incidents.



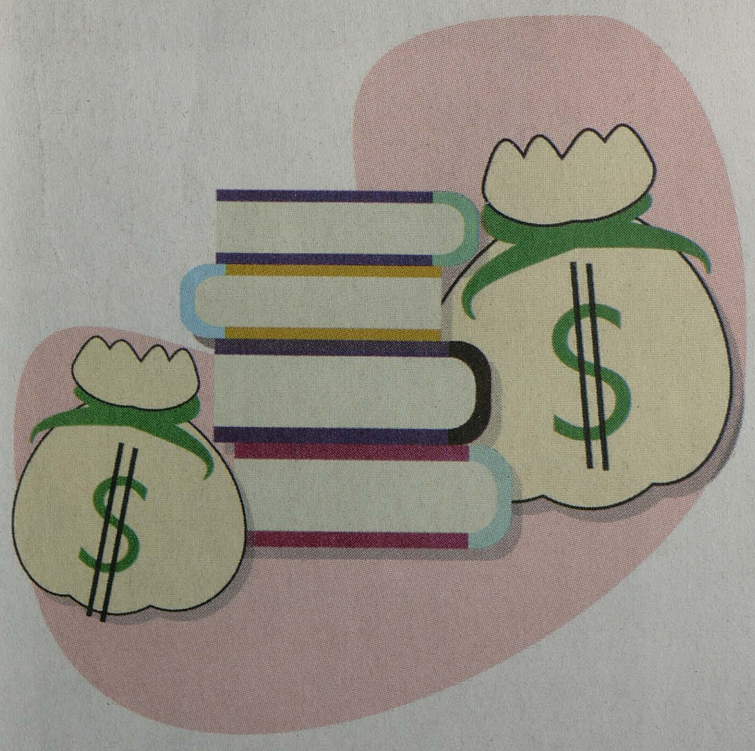


Illustration made by Cecilia Kohl
American college debt has reached a total of $1.5 trillion, and according to the Center for American Progress, an additional $119 billion was owed to private loan companies.

FASFA, TJC scholarship applications open; apply now to save money

By Celeste Gibson
News Editor

The Financial Aid Office will be hosting workshops on Nov. 14 and Feb. 6 to assist students with the Free Application for Student Financial Aid and financial aid. The FASFA and TJC Scholarship application opened Oct. 1, and the deadline for 2020-21 fall classes is April 1.

"All students should complete the FASFA each year," said Devon Wiggins, director of Financial Aid and Enrollment Support Services. "Students may be eligible for more than they think. Also, we see a lot of students not expecting to use loans but something unexpected happens and they need them after all, so completing the FASFA early, even if there aren't any plans to take out loans, puts them a great position just in case something changes."

TJC offers more than $48 million in financial aid each year through grants, loans, scholarships, waivers, exemptions and work study.

"Based on our last IPEDs (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) data the average grant/ scholarship received by undergraduate students was $5,007, the average Pell grant was $4,660, and the average federal student loan was $5,460," Wiggins said. "Other good info is that for 2019-2020 the maximum Pell grant is $6,195, plus we award other grants from both federal and state sources."

FAFSA has recently launched a mobile app called myStudentAid.

"I think FAFSA is great because it is helping students everywhere go to college," said student Eunice Ambriz. "It didn't take long for me to complete the FAFSA; however, there was a hiccup in my process so I didn't receive anything this semester. I plan on re-applying, so hopefully next semester."

Students can contact the Apache Enrollment Center for financial aid assistance. They can visit the AEC in the White Administrative Services Center or call 903-510-2385.

"I applied last year for the FASFA, but I haven't started this year's application yet," said student Alaina Thorn. "My parents helped me so applying wasn't too bad. I also received scholarships from TJC so I haven't taken out any loans. I don't feel like I need a whole lot of help with the FASFA, because my parents have helped me out so much."

Photo by Cassidy Winborn
The Apache Band participates in several homecoming traditions such as the Apache Punch, the halftime performance and parade.

Apache Band revels in homecoming traditions

By Robert Naylor
Editor-in-Chief

The Apache Band is an integral part to retaining traditions during the school's homecoming week celebrations, such as the parade and a halftime show during the homecoming football game.

"I have never been in a band like this where there is this much excitement about homecoming," said Madi Rhodes, front ensemble section leader for the vibraphones. "In high school, it was a regular old homecoming. Especially since we're playing against Kilgore, it's going to be huge. I know for halftime it's going to be a 30- to 45-minute halftime show."

For this year's halftime show expect to see the TJC band and Apache Belles as well as the Kilgore band and the Rangerettes as they all work in conjunction with one another.

Along with the 93-year-old tradition of the "Drumbeat," which is the beating of the drum that can be heard all week at the Rogers Student Center, is a 30-year anniversary for the Apache Punch. The Apache Punch known specifically for being the percussion section of the TJC band.

"A lot of ex-members will be coming for homecoming," said Victoria Martinez, percussionist in the front ensemble. "This year we have so many members coming back for homecoming, so we are excited, it's going to be a lot of fun!"

The Apache Punch is unique for Martinez, and it has already played a large part in her personal life before deciding to come to TJC.

"It's really great to see what all the drummers have done with their lives," Martinez said. "Some of them became teachers. I myself, in high school, had two Apache Punch alumni as teachers, and it's just super cool to see how far TJC students go after college."

Kickoff for the football game will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, so expect the band to have a presence before and during the game.

Homecoming events

Saturday, Oct. 26

Rim March and Homecoming Pre-Game
2 p.m. at Rose Stadium

Football: TJC vs. Kilgore
3 p.m. at Rose Stadium

HOMECOMING 2019

Photos by Michael King
Students perform during the Campus Capers Talent Show on Oct. 22.

Photo by Micheal King
Homecoming nominees pose for a picture during the Drum Beat Opening Ceremony.

Photo by Micheal King
Alumni pass out cookies at the Drum Beat Opening Ceremony.

Photo by Micheal King
Paul Calhoum and Chaniya Polk are announced at the Drum Beat Opening Ceremony.

Clarification: In the article published in the Oct. 11 issue titled "Mental health issues on the rise on college campuses," The DrumBeat reported Kilgore College has three licensed professional counselors on staff. To clarify, the counselors are also academic counselors.

Fight to finish

Photos and stories by Zhaekyra White
Sports editor

Volleyball team works toward post-season matches

Madison Frusha

Middle hitter

Madison Frusha began playing volleyball during her second year of middle school in Huntsville, Texas. She moved to Tyler because she felt TJC would be the best place to improve her skills on the court. As she toured the school as a freshman, she saw how the program works and instantly knew she wanted to be part of it.

"I chose TJC because it felt like a good fit for me to grow as a player, especially as a middle hitter because this programs tries to use their middles a lot. And when I came on my visit it just felt like the right place to be," Frusha said.

What she likes most about the team is the atmosphere and the different cultures. People from all over the world are a part of the team, and Frusha said she has become close friends with many of her teammates. Frusha mentions it has been tough working to improve her skills and the challenges she has faced.

"My biggest challenge has been growing as a player. Changing what I'm doing, trying to be more aggressive, and louder because I'm a pretty quiet person," Frusha said. "And just stepping up and trying to lead some of the freshmen."

In all her years playing volleyball, Frusha has accomplished much she is proud of. In high school, Frusha received honorable mention and second team all district. As a freshman at TJC, she lead the national tournament in blocks.

After graduating from TJC, Frusha would like to transfer to a four-year university and continue her volleyball career.

Shara DaSilva

Middle hitter

Shara DaSilva is from Brazil, where she began playing volleyball at age 14. She wanted to move to the United States because she knew it would be a good place for her to learn more in order to improve herself. DaSilva explains what changes she has made since moving to the United States.

"It's hard for me because I have to speak in English — it's not my first language. My teammates always help me so it's hard, but it's fun at the same time," DaSilva said.

She loves being at TJC because of the great learning experiences from being on the team and working with the coach. She is still getting used to the differences between here and her hometown, but every day she gets better at what she does.

Her favorite thing about being on the team is that they have all become close on and off the court. DaSilva mentions how everyone around her is always more than happy to help her improve herself even outside of playing volleyball.

Her greatest challenge has been working on her form.

"Now I have to work my blocker in my form. It's hard because in Brazil it's totally different. They don't care about form, and here I have to really try and transition fast," DaSilva said.

At her high school in Brazil, she won All-American in 2018 for club.

After graduating from TJC, she is not sure about what's next, but she knows she wants enjoy the moments she has with her team now.

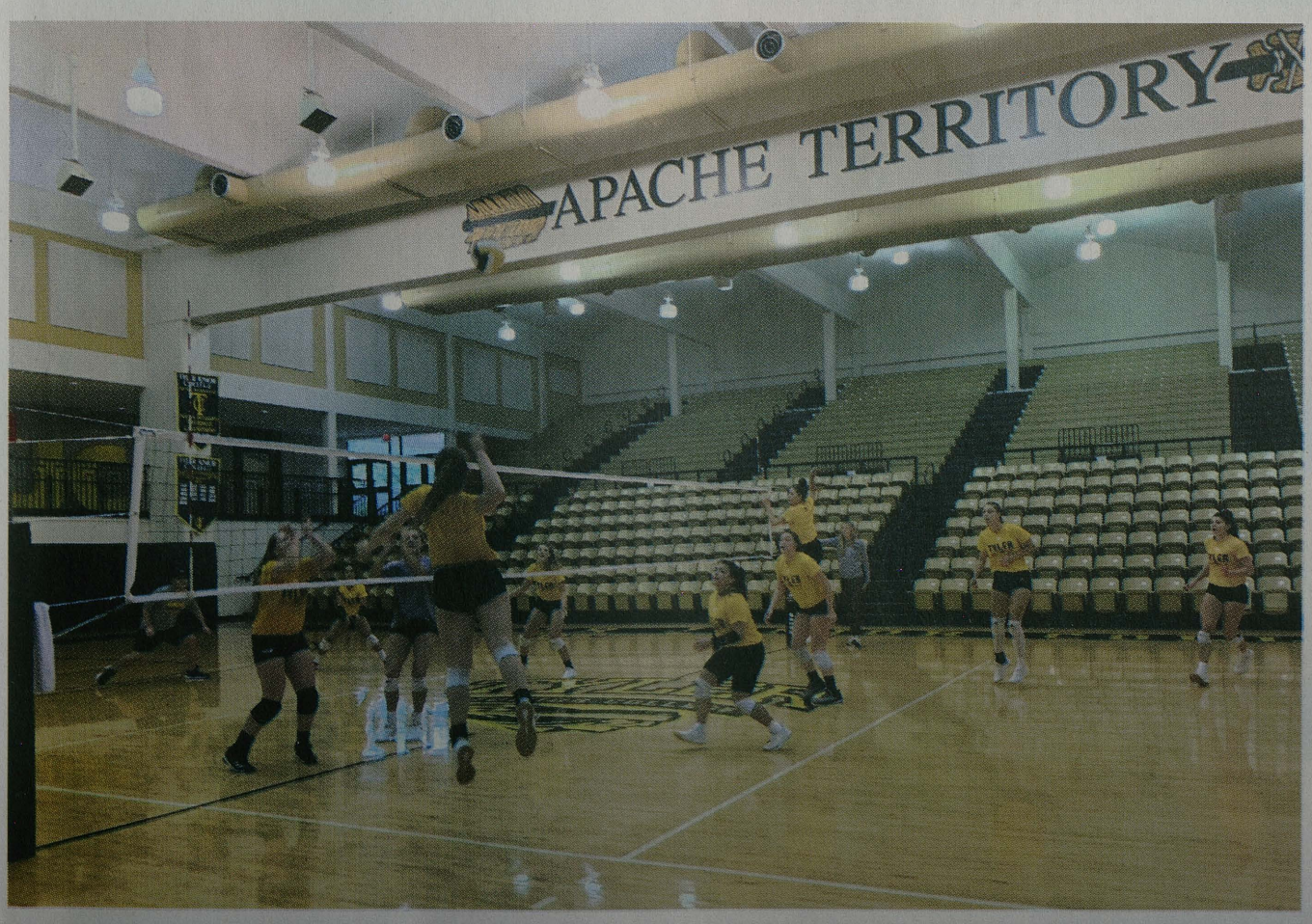


Photo by Zhaekyra White
The volleyball team practices for upcoming games.

Schedule

Oct. 26 vs. North Central Texas College
Noon Tyler

*post-season begins

Nov. 1-3 vs. TBA Tyler

Nov. 14-16 vs. TBA
Hutchinson, Kansas

Rim March tradition connects Apache Belles, Apache Gold

By Viviana Faz
Social Media Editor

In celebration of homecoming, the Apache Belles will participate in the Rim March with the Apache Gold, the Apache Belles alumni. The Rim March will happen approximately 45 minutes prior to kickoff on Saturday, Oct. 26, on the concourse surrounding the football field.

The Rim March has happened every home game since 1948. The Rim March started to pump up the football team.

"Homecoming brings so many Apache Belles back to Tyler and truly displays how the line between the Belles is long and the circle is unbroken," said Madi Murphy, a sophomore Apache Belle in the 72 line.

To one Apache Belle, this year's Rim March is more than a regular homecoming; it is a connection to her mom who passed away.

"Even though I never got to walk with my mom or that my mom is not here for me to do it with her, I know she's watching so I feel closer to her," said Misty Jones, a freshman Apache Belle on the 73 line.

For Jones, being an Apache Belle runs in the family. Her grandma was on the 3 line, her mother was on the 32 line, and her sisters were on the 67 and 69 line.

"They are proud that I got the chance to carry on the family legacy that my grandma started," Jones said. Also, the Apache Band and Touch of Gold members will participate in the Rim March.

Photo by Cassidy Winborn
Apache Belles perform at the halftime during the football game. During homecoming, the Belles connect with alumni during the Rim March.

TJC offers personalized career planning

By Adam Palacios
Contributing writer

A rising trend for college students is to switch or put off declaring their major. It is normal for students to struggle trying to figure out what they want to do with their life at a young age. After all, about 80% of college students change their major at least once, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Tyler Junior College offers a service specifically tailored to help students explore possible majors and career options.

The TJC Career Planning office, located in the White Administrative Services Center, provides various assessments to help students identify their strengths, skills and interests. It also helps students set and develop a career action plan.

"When students get here it's been proven that 60% of incoming freshmen don't know what they want to study," said Claire Mizell, director of admissions. "We have this [service] in place to help with the onboarding of those who are just unsure, to help [students] make smart decisions and to ensure students stay on track to finish their degree."

College is often the perfect time to explore different career paths and to figure out what one's interests are. Students should not feel pressured to quickly declare a major, however, it can help save time and money, according to a report published by the Education Advisory Board. Once a career path is chosen, students can finish their degree on time and take only the classes they need.

TJC Career Planning allows for each student to get personalized planning and "it is a great resource for students whether they have decided their major or not," Mizell said. "It is free and really helps students find their own path."

Photo by Adam Palacios
The TJC Career Planning office, located in the White Administrative Services Center, provides various assessments to help students identify their strengths, skills and interests.

TJC Career Planning appointments are available 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Walk-ins are welcome. To make an appointment, call 903-510-3346.

Tutoring, workshops available in the Vaughn Library

Topics range from time management to organization

By Anna Drewett
Staff Writer

The Apache Tutoring Center on the second floor of the Vaughn Library at TJC offers workshops for students to learn different skill sets needed for college. Every week the tutoring center hosts either a writing support workshop or a learning support workshop with the chosen topic being offered at different times throughout the week.

There are a multitude of different types of learning support workshops that range from time management and organization to study skills. According to Danna Baggett, the director of tutoring at TJC, there are "five different kinds of writing topics: grammar and punctuation, how to write an essay, how to edit, researching and citations for MLA/APA, and creating a résumé."

The next learning support workshop is about researching and reading a scholarly article. This workshop will be offered at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 29, 2 p.m. Oct. 30 and 5:30 p.m. Oct. 31. The upcoming writing support workshop covers creating a résumé and will be held at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 30 and at 2 p.m. Oct. 31 in the Quest Classroom of the Vaughn Library.

Nicole Hicks, a part-time employee who helps manage the writing tutors, hosts the writing support workshops and Tiffany Thompson, a part-time employee who assists the learning support tutors, teaches the learning support workshops.

Another resource the Vaughn Library offers for students is the library workshops held by Leif Pierson, a reference/serials librarian at TJC. Pierson usually hosts about three different workshops each semester.

Pierson's last workshop was a Citation Skills Lab. Pierson said in the Citation Skills Lab he usually covers "citation styles including MLA, APA and Chicago. I also use some examples to go through the basics of what is wrong with a citation and students can correct it."

Other workshops Pierson has offered in the past include Research Tips and Finding Authoritative Sources for Your Assignment. Pierson has been providing these workshops to students for about six years.

Visit the Vaughn Library and explore the different workshops and tutoring options they provide.

Overflow ministry serves students at TJC and UT Tyler to share its mission

By Hanna Hawkins
Contributing Writer

Overflow Tyler is a ministry for college students that strives to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ known on local college campuses. The ministry comprises students from both TJC and the University of Texas at Tyler who share in the same mission as the organization. Friendly Baptist Church originally started the ministry in spring 2017 when they saw a need for students to have a place to comfortably worship with fellow believers.

As the ministry has grown, they have partnered with other local churches and hope they will be able to continue reaching students with the Gospel for many more years. The ministry is currently overseen by Steve Lyles, the executive pastor at Friendly Baptist Church, and is lead in part by the worship team and other volunteers.

"I have loved being a part of this ministry, and I love getting to see the impact it has had on students," Skylar Davis, a member of the Overflow worship team, said. "It really is great. I have learned a lot and would definitely recommend it to anybody looking for a place to worship."

Overflow meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday and alternates locations weekly. Each meeting consists of a time of worship, a lesson and concludes with another short segment of worship. The ministry and its leaders are passionate about Overflow being a safe place for students to come without feeling judged and focuses on loving people right where they are.

Photo by Hanna Hawkins
Students worship during an Overflow event. Overflow is a student ministry with TJC and UT Tyler students.

Bailey Johnson, an Overflow student, said, "We want everyone to come. Even if you haven't been before or don't know anyone, at least come and try it out. That's what I did, and now I love it."

For more information on when and where Overflow meets, visit the group's Facebook page "Overflow Tyler" or its Instagram page "@overflowtyler."

igda
international game developers association academic chapter

Promoting international reach and networking for the game industry. We also host weekly gaming events for all TJC Students!

Contact: Caroline Dougherty
cdou@tjc.edu

Theatre students 'face their monsters' in free outdoor play

By LaKyndra Larkin
Contributing Writer

The Tyler Junior College Theatre Department will be performing a second stage performance of "Wiley and the Hairy Man" at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, on the south end of the Wise Cultural Arts Building in front of Fifth Street. It will be about one hour long, and the performance is free and open to anyone who wants to watch.

"Wiley and the Hairy Man" is a folk story about Wiley, a boy who lives in the swamps with his mom, dog and the Hairy Man. The Hairy Man is a monster who lives in the swamp that uses magic, and Wiley has to face his fears and win against him.

Director of Theatre Facilities, Bryce McWilliams, decided the cast is using the original script that was made in the 1970s and the setting of the play is outside. McWilliams said, "It's all about the earth and the swamp, so it's best to be outside."

Student Gaylan Simmons, who plays chorus two in the play, said, "The audience should definitely be excited for the magic aspect of everything, but also being able to relate to the characters."

The performance is also family-friendly and humorous, there are also some spooky moments throughout the play but "nothing the kids can't handle," McWilliams said.

The cast is made up of nine characters and a puppet, and due to second stage performances being shorter than regular plays, it'll be more creative and fun for the family.

There will also be a second performance of the play at 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26. There will be "chairs and blankets for the audience to sit and watch the play, which will be very fun," McWilliams said.

Photos by LaKyndra Larkin
TJC theatre students will perform a second stage performance of "Wiley and the Hairy Man" at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, and 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, on the south end of the Wise Cultural Arts Building in front of Fifth Street. The performance is free and open to the public.

Review: 'Zombieland: Double Tap' rings true to original film

By Michael Bald
Entertainment Editor

Ten years have passed since the film "Zombieland" gained a cult following and has been anticipated with a sequel. Now, with an Academy Award-nominated cast and one winner, Emma Stone, we have been invited back into the horrifyingly funny world again. And as far as sequels go, especially comedies, this one definitely lives up to its predecessor.

All of the original cast has returned to reprise their roles, and they are all great. Jessie Eisenberg and Woody Harrelson have an excellent chemistry as they did in the first movie, along with Stone and Abigail Breslin. All of them feel as if they've been friends for the longest time. It's not just due to their performances, the script they get to work with is extremely witty and clever, and it leaves enough room for improv if need be. Every line and action feels appropriate for their characters.

However, as far as the new cast, there was one actress who I hadn't seen or heard of before named Zoey Deutch. She plays the character of Madison, a dumb blonde who loves the color pink and acts as a stereotypical blonde archetype. She had a very tough role to pull off because she could have easily become an annoying presence like Jar Jar Binks from "Star Wars." Luckily, she was one of the most hilarious and best aspects of the movie. The last "Zombieland" made stars out of all the cast, and I feel Deutch will have a bright career ahead of her, as well.

Deutch wasn't the only new face in the world of "Zombieland." Avan Jogia plays the character of Berkeley, a guitar playing hipster that results in hilarious head-butting with Harrelson's character.

The filmmaking and violence level felt as if they were bumped up a few notches. There were two sequences that involved running from zombies in tightly-condensed areas and they shot it as if it was one continuous shot. It was very well thought out technically and comically satisfying with the events in the scene. The over-the-top violence added a lot of grit to the slapstick of the movie. Many comedies today lack well made slapstick, so it was nice to see it done and done well.

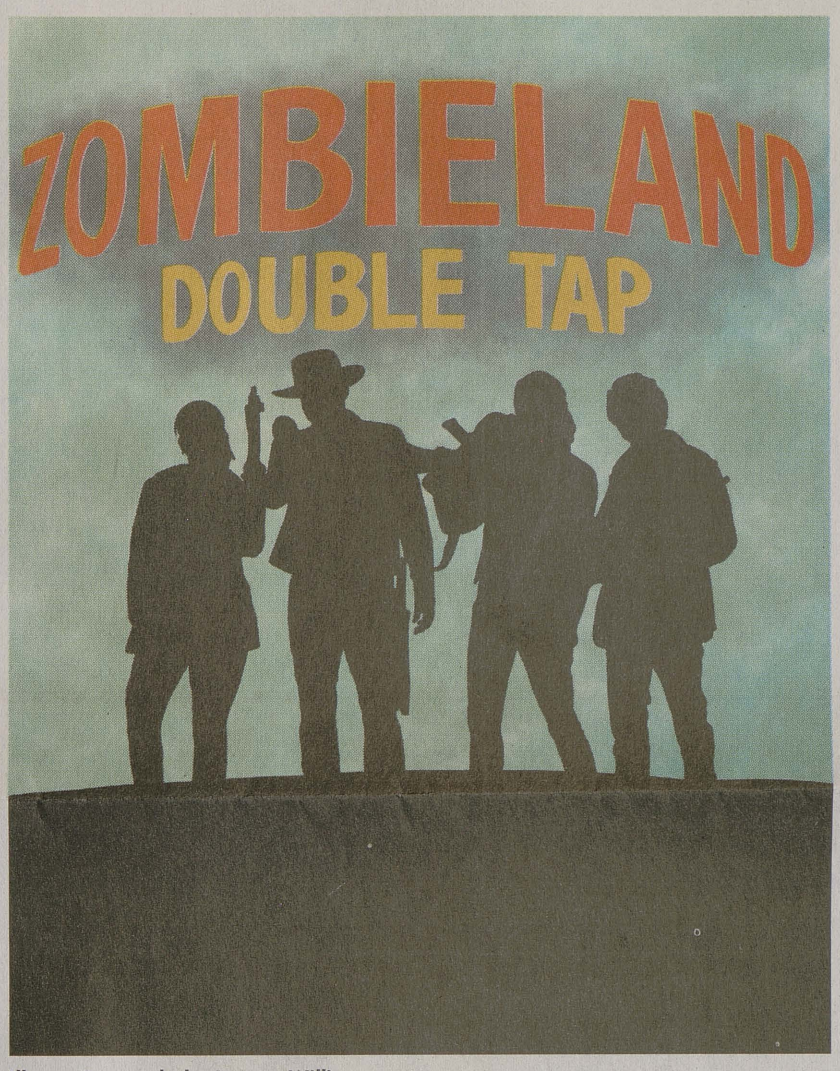


Illustration made by Leyton Williams

As far as negatives, I would say it follows some similar beats as the first. It isn't a complete re-hash of the first one, but for those who love the first film they will probably notice some of the similarities. For example, in the first movie, Harrelson's character is searching for a random object that is significant to him. In the first film, it was a Twinkie, which had an actual thematic point to his character unlike in the sequel. In the sequel, it felt like Tallahassee was searching for something just as a callback to the original film.

There is also a part of the movie where they meet a character played by Rosario Dawson. At this point, the movie felt as if it kind of lost the momentum it had been building. It wasn't because of her performance. It just felt as if it were there to fill up time, which made it come across as lazy. However, this section of the film did give us two hilarious characters played by Luke Wilson and Thomas Middleditch, who play mirror characters to Eisenberg and Harrelson. That sequence was very clever and well done.

Overall, I would highly recommend "Zombieland: Double Tap." It has a great cast, a great script and awesome zombie-killing action. This film would be perfect for any group or individual to have a fun time with.

Art Club 'attacks' campus with creativity

By Elizabeth Mansker
Staff Writer

Tyler Junior College's Art Department offers an Art Club where all students are welcome regardless of their major.

The Art Club also hosts Art Attacks.

"We like to sneak in and put art in a building that may not necessarily have it just to liven things up," said Derrick White, Art Department chair and professor. "An Art Attack is a fun way to invite other people from across campus to join Art Club or come visit Art Club."

Art Club meets at noon every Wednesday in the Jenkins Hall Art Department lobby. There are no dues or requirements for this club.

The club offers a lot of different events like pizza parties, field trips and exhibition opportunities.

Photo by Elizabeth Mansker
Members of the Art Club place art in buildings across campus.

Review: Will Smith's 'Gemini Man' falls short with CGI character, effects

By Robert Naylor
Editor-in-Chief

"Gemini Man" is Will Smith's latest film debut, and it has already reported a $75 million loss.

Now when a film busts as it did for Smith, one can look for faults within the film, but one must also consider alternatives.

To start, "Gemini Man" repeated a craft seen in movies such as "Rogue 1," a "Star Wars" standalone, where living actors are replaced with CGI counterparts. While the execution has so far been lackluster on the silver screen, when needed, the execution can be effective.

"Rogue 1," featured two CGI characters; a young memorable Princess Leia and Grand Moff Tarkin — Tarkin being a character who was originally portrayed by Peter Cushing who had passed away in 1994.

While these character portrayals were present in the film, their parts were short and limited. Their participation within the film was not necessary, but their presence added a semblance of nostalgia.

Compare this to Smith's "Gemini Man" and the two exist in two entirely different universes. Within "Gemini Man," the young Smith CGI recreation is present throughout much of the film, with the character being a focal point within the film.

As a viewer, there is ample time to stare at the CGI abomination that is young Smith, where it becomes clear that some scenes garnished more effort than others.

While at times holding up, nothing can compare to the facial expressions made by the real Smith. While the concept within "Gemini Man" is in itself interesting, as of now the technology does not hold up.

Why did "Gemini Man" fail so miserably though? It's not only because of the lacking CGI.

The answer is simple. "Joker."

"Joker" is a movie where the simplicities of practical effects clearly overshadow the advent of modern CGI technology. The best way to explain this is to look at the simple clown make up adorned by Joaquin Phoenix.

While it probably took a while to match up to Hollywood standards, the clown makeup that masks the Joker's identity was perfectly simple. When it comes down to it, this is what viewers prefer.

Film is already detached from reality, and the blend of CGI technology that is ever present in modern cinema just makes the gap larger. If one looks at the root of early cinema, one wanted to have something that could easily have happened.

Cinema is supposed to be believable and something slightly unbelievable, but convincing enough to hold true. This is why the "Joker" was effective and why "Gemini Man" will eventually be forgotten.

Should we give up on CGI acting altogether? Perhaps not as technology grows, but for now, I've learned my lesson in trusting a film that promises to house a CGI character next to the real thing.

Tyler Swim School
We are looking to train and hire swim teachers for upcoming summer swim classes. Sessions are available January, February and March.
Apply at 3030 State HWY 31 East Tyler, Texas 75702
Questions? Email us at scubacenter@sbcglobal.net.
PADI SWIM SCHOOL
In cooperation with Starfish Aquatics Institute.

In the 'Red Zone'

Women at a higher risk of sexual assault in first two years of college

Staff Editorial

Showing up freshmen year one might think about books, clubs, classes, sporting events and even social parties. While all the heightened excitement that comes with moving onto campus is intoxicating, not all those who come to college leave with beautiful memories because of what is known as the "Red Zone."

According to the Journal of American College Health, Vol. 57, No.3, the "Red Zone is a period of time early in one's first year at a college or university during which women are thought to be at particularly high risk for unwanted sexual experiences…a period that starts at one's arrival on campus and ends with the first holiday break."

Sexual assault "includes any unwanted sexual activity, from unwanted touching to rape," as defined by the womenshealth.gov. Sexual assault should not be kept quite and needs to be reported. Freshmen and sophomore women are at a higher risk of sexual assault.

An examination of sexual violence against college women stated "84% of the women who reported sexually coercive experiences experienced the incident during their first four semesters on campus." That means college freshmen and sophomore women seem to be at a higher risk of being sexually assaulted than upperclassmen.

Tyler Junior College offers two-year programs and the ability to transfer to a university. That means TJC will see more freshmen and sophomore students. In 2017-18 TJC's enrollments was 11, 649. From that amount 4,714 of those students were male and 6,935 were women. That means more than half of the students were women enrolled at TJC.

College student experiences can involve using alcohol or drugs with others, often at parties. Those are times when sexual assault can happen more often. According to alcohol.org "at least 50% of student sexual assaults involve alcohol."

According to data in the 2019 Annual Campus Safety and Fire Report, in 2017 there were nine rape charges on the TJC main campus and four in 2018. There were 28 disciplinary referrals of liquor law violations in 2017 and eight in 2018. There were 34 disciplinary referrals for drug abuse violation in 2017 and 11 in 2018. All were done on the TJC campus.

According to an article in Precollege Predictors of Incapacitated Rape Among Female Students in Their First Year of College, "15% reported IR (incapacitated rape) during their first year of college."

This report indicates sexual assault is often involved with alcohol and drugs. Being incapacitated means that 15% of those young women could not give their consent to the sexual encounter because they did not know anything was happening.

"More than 50% of all college sexual assaults occur in the fall (August, September, October or November)," stated by rainn.org. With that being the case, this is the time of the year where one needs to be on alert more often.

It was stated in an article titled Campus Sexual Assault Study from 2007, "more than 95% of all sexual assaults experienced by students are committed by someone the assault survivor knows."

Sexual assault is always the fault of attacker, however, there are steps to be safer here on campus and back home.

Look below for womenshealth.gov safety tips to help protect against sexual assaults.

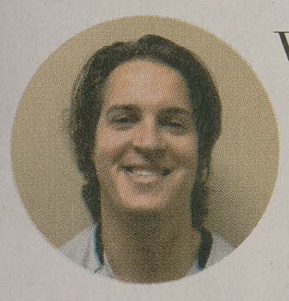
Sexual assault is a real issue on college campuses across the country, but that does not mean one needs to live in fear. Using the safety tips and reporting any incidents this holiday season may help the TJC campus stay a little safer.

Illustration made by Leyton Williams

The womenshealth.gov advises several safety tips to protect against sexual assaults.

- **Get to know the people around before you spend time alone with them**
- **Go to parties or gatherings with a friend you trust**
- **Meet first dates and/or new people in public places first**
- **Listen to your instincts or "gut feelings"**
- **Be aware of your intake of alcohol or drugs**
- **Keep control of your own drink and watch the bartender open your drink**
- **Get help right away if you feel something is off and if you haven't drank any alcohol**
- **Be aware of your surroundings and avoid walking alone and ask campus safety or friend to walk with you**
- **Know your resources and how to contact help, the police or a health care center**
- **Have a plan to get home from anywhere you are by having money and a phone to get help**

Column: President Donald Trump withdraws troops from Syria; gains criticism



By Robert Naylor
Editor-in-Chief

President Donald Trump has made an executive choice to withdraw U.S. troops out of Syria. As a person who has always questioned wars in the Middle East, I could not be happier.

I was reading a Reuters article in which soldiers criticized Trump's Syria retreat stating strongly that we are abandoning our Kurdish allies. The thought that popped into my mind was almost instantaneous. What about all the other soldiers? The ones who want to go home and see their family?

I have often engaged in conversation, sometimes debating the presence of U.S. military forces throughout much of the Middle East, and I always came to the same conclusion, "Why are we really there?"

Some would say because we are stealing the oil, but my conclusions were always more sinister. I believe we are involved with Middle Eastern conflict because of the profits of war.

According to an article in Newsweek, the Pentagon spends $250 million a day on war. That's a lot of money. This, of course, ignores private contracting for manufacturers that would see a rise in spending, but the conclusion is the same.

War makes money. It always has.

Why did America join in on World War I? The general opinion was deeply against U.S. deployment in Europe during the time, but the sinking of the Lusitania ultimately forced the U.S. to engage directly in the "war to end all wars."

Without going too tinfoil conspiratorial, I'll simply say someone profited off of this. Where does that money go? While I do not have that answer, what I can say is this: people are losing money with Trump's withdraw in Syria, and that makes me happy.

Is this then the withdrawal of American deployment throughout the Middle Eastern region for the foreseeable future? It is highly doubtful.

Both sides of the political spectrum, Democrat or Republican, are war hungry. Politicians pockets are lined by war lobbyists. When I see Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer criticize Trump for his withdrawal in Syria, I just think about the money that forces such a criticism.

Similarly, people criticize Trump for instigating war-like action, especially from a boisterous Iran regime. In the end, while Trump has withdrawn from Syria, he is not perfect in my purview, but progress is progress.

Column: Why I'll never enter a haunted house in Halloween

By Emily Niebuhr
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again when people start decorating inside and outside of their houses, getting candy, costumes, watching scary movies, and going to haunted mazes or houses to celebrate Halloween. I'm going to tell you a story of how I was traumatized by haunted houses and will now never step foot into one again.

It started during my sophomore year in high school when my best friend Anna asked me if I wanted to go to six flags Fright Fest with her sister, Joshlyn, and two other guys, plus her dad would be taking us. Back then, I didn't know what to expect at six flags during Halloween. Since I watched scary movies, I thought it couldn't be that scary right? I was already scared of clowns and knew then I wouldn't be going into a haunted house with them in it, but little did I know what was to come.

It was a nice fall feeling that Friday night when we went to six flags. We got there around dusk — when there was little daylight so there couldn't be any scary creatures out to scare you. Well,
I was wrong. People had fun scaring me and Anna — we couldn't walk without them jumping out or walking behind us.

It was the year when the "Twilight" saga was out, so there were vampires but the ones you see in your nightmares and werewolves that weren't cute.
All in all, it was fun seeing everything decorated for Halloween until the haunted house experience.

It was my call to hit up a haunted house and the scariest one they had, so I had a feeling I knew what I got myself into I thought. I don't remember the name of the haunted house, but I know it had something to do with scary movies, which back then I enjoyed. While walking through the house, half of the time I held on to my best friend Anna's dad's shirt since there was fog. This house had everything you imagined about the scary movies you watched, and I knew I was going to have nightmares from it. There were strobe lights, which made it scarier and harder to see where you're going.

By the end, I was ready to get out of there since the whole time I probably screamed, and the creatures scared me to me to my core.

While I was going through the haunted house to tell you the truth, I was power walking to the end because I knew it was already traumatizing me and I needed to find the exit fast. When I saw the end to freedom, a clown jumped out with a chainsaw and started to chase us, so I ran for my life because that was my nightmare chasing me. I was about to have a panic attack, and I was afraid I'd fall down. I ran out so fast that even when I was outside I was still running from the clown and didn't care if people were wondering why I was still running and screaming.

Now you know why I hate haunted houses. I won't go to one anymore,
and sadly, I can't really watch scary movies anymore.

Student Senate, Faculty Senate have similar functions; serve different campus communities

By McKenna Mirksy
Contributing Writer

Tyler Junior College has various organizations, including the Student Senate and the Faculty Senate. While both seem similar on the surface, the presidents of both senates give an inside perspective of what their organization is truly about.

Executive President of the Student Senate Brooks Melton describes the main functions of the organization.

"The main purpose of Student Senate is of course to be the voice of the student body to the administration, and also to oversee all student organizations on campus," Melton said.

The Faculty Senate President Tim Gill gives his insight on the purpose of the faculty. "In our case here at TJC, there's a concept in higher education called shared governance, and it's the idea that the administration isn't the only one who has a role in governing the school," Gill said.

Gill explains that the Faculty Senate also has an impactful role for the campus. "We act kind of as advocates for the faculty to the administration on things that matter to us," Gill said.

Not only do Melton and Gill describe each senate's purpose, but also how they communicate with one another. Melton elaborates on how the communication works between the Student and Faculty Senate through the Chairman of Student Relations Committee, Justin Hall.

"I see him at every meeting of Student Senate and he'll give me an update on whether or not Faculty Senate needs anything from us and vice versa," Melton said. "As far as there being any formal interactions between Faculty Senate and Student Senate, there's really not any besides communication between the faculty liaison and myself."

Melton explains why there's a lack of communication between the organizations.

"We both have two different objectives. We serve the students and they serve the faculty, but we both speak toward the administration," Melton said. "Usually when it comes to the Faculty Senate, they specifically focus on faculty-oriented issues and we specifically focus on student-oriented issues. So anytime that the two intertwine or they meet, then we'll have some communication."

Melton said if any tasks need to be accomplished, the Student Senate members go to the department heads or administrators to resolve the specific issues being addressed. He specifies that the Student Senate doesn't necessarily coordinate issues to the Faculty Senate; however, if they do cross paths then they communicate.

Gill said Hall "has regular contact with the Student Senate but beyond that I'm not aware of any kind of formal interaction between the two senates." Gill also adds how he would like the Faculty Senate to interact more with the Student Senate so that students have access to resources to become more successful.

Aside from how the senates communicate, Melton and Gill describe challenges they face behind the scenes.

"I think not a lot of people see all the work that goes on behind closed doors. We're always constantly doing something every day of every week," Melton said. Melton describes various tasks the Student Senate does, such as meeting as an executive board, meeting with administrators and working on their committees.

"Most of the time I think people just see what we do in general assembly," Melton said. "We come up, we give reports, we give different dates and things that are going on, but I think people don't really see what goes on behind the scenes to really make this organization work."

Gill describes the challenges from the previous relationship between the Faculty Senate and the administration.

"I think it would be safe to say that some of the people that were in the upper administration weren't that receptive to what faculty thought," Gill said. "They would just make decisions that affected faculty without really getting any kind of input first so they'd at least be considered about."

Gill said the administration's decisions were the final input of any situation without considering the faculty's feedback. However, Gill said the relationship has greatly improved since he joined the faculty.

"Over the last few years that I've been involved, they definitely want to hear the faculty input before they make a decision that's going to affect the faculty more broadly, but that wasn't the case all the time."

Other adversities Melton and Gill face are high expectations that come with their position.

"It is a very prestigious honor to be on the executive board for Student Senate, but with that prestige comes with a lot of responsibility," Melton said. "Sometimes it's a little difficult trying to find a balance between your academic life and your extracurricular life and your personal life, but if you really have a passion for it then you find how to fit all of those areas in together."

Gill shares the main responsibility he and the faculty face, which is how they communicate, saying that the faculty is "the main coordination tool of the administration, so I feel an obligation for it to be as affective as possible." Gill explained many people voice their concerns to the faculty. However, Gill said it's more difficult to handle specific issues, rather than broad ones that affect the whole campus.

"It needs to have some kind of broader level of concern among the faculty members," Gill said. "So sometimes they have to judge or be diplomatic about being sympathetic to their concern, but at the same time not necessarily making it a Faculty Senate issue to go forward with."

Gill concludes how the main pressures that derive from how the faculty communicates with others, is having integrity and retaining a good reputation.

"I think there is a certain amount of responsibility as far as maintaining the integrity and the reputation because I think that things have changed. I feel a responsibility to maintain that positive reputation," Gill said.

Melton emphasizes how Student Senate is always there for students in need.

"We are always here for the students," Melton said. "We are always here to listen to students and a lot of the times I feel like some students don't really know how to voice their opinions."

Melton elaborates more into why he wants to help students.

"I just really want to embrace all the students that don't feel like their voice is heard anywhere else that we are the avenue for them. We are their opportunity for them to be heard out. We as the Student Senate are here for the students. So if you have any problems, if you have anything that you feel like needs to be done, come to us and we'll hear you out."

Gill explains how the Faculty Senate is available for anyone on campus and how they're willing to resolve any conflicts.

"We really are here for the whole college community," Gill said. "We are the Faculty Senate, but it's not only good things that matter that directly affect us as faculty members, but things that we're concerned about that affect students, too."

Gill describes the positive impact Faculty Senate has had for TJC. "We have a broad mission of support, and I think we really do have a positive contribution to the campus that affects a lot of people including students," Gill said. "I think it's been more than worth my extra time that it takes in involvement. I think we really do make a positive contribution to the college."

Bicentenary 2019

7 p.m. • Saturday, Nov. 2

Rogers Student Center Apache Rooms

The Baha'i Club of TJC and The Baha'is of East Texas cordially invite you to the 200th anniversary of the Birth of the Bab, Herald of the Baha'i Faith.

Featuring: Harmony and Understanding, and Chamber Singers

TJC's performance vocal groups will show us how religions can work together and sing together in harmony. Community leaders will make brief presentations.

Baha'i Club of TJC™

Tyler celebrates 86th Texas Rose Festival Parade

Photo by Michael King
TJC president Dr. Juan Mejia waves at members of the community while riding in style at the Texas Rose Festival Parade.

Photo by Cecilia Kohl
A parade onlooker stopped to fist bump a cop as he drove his motorcycle in the parade.

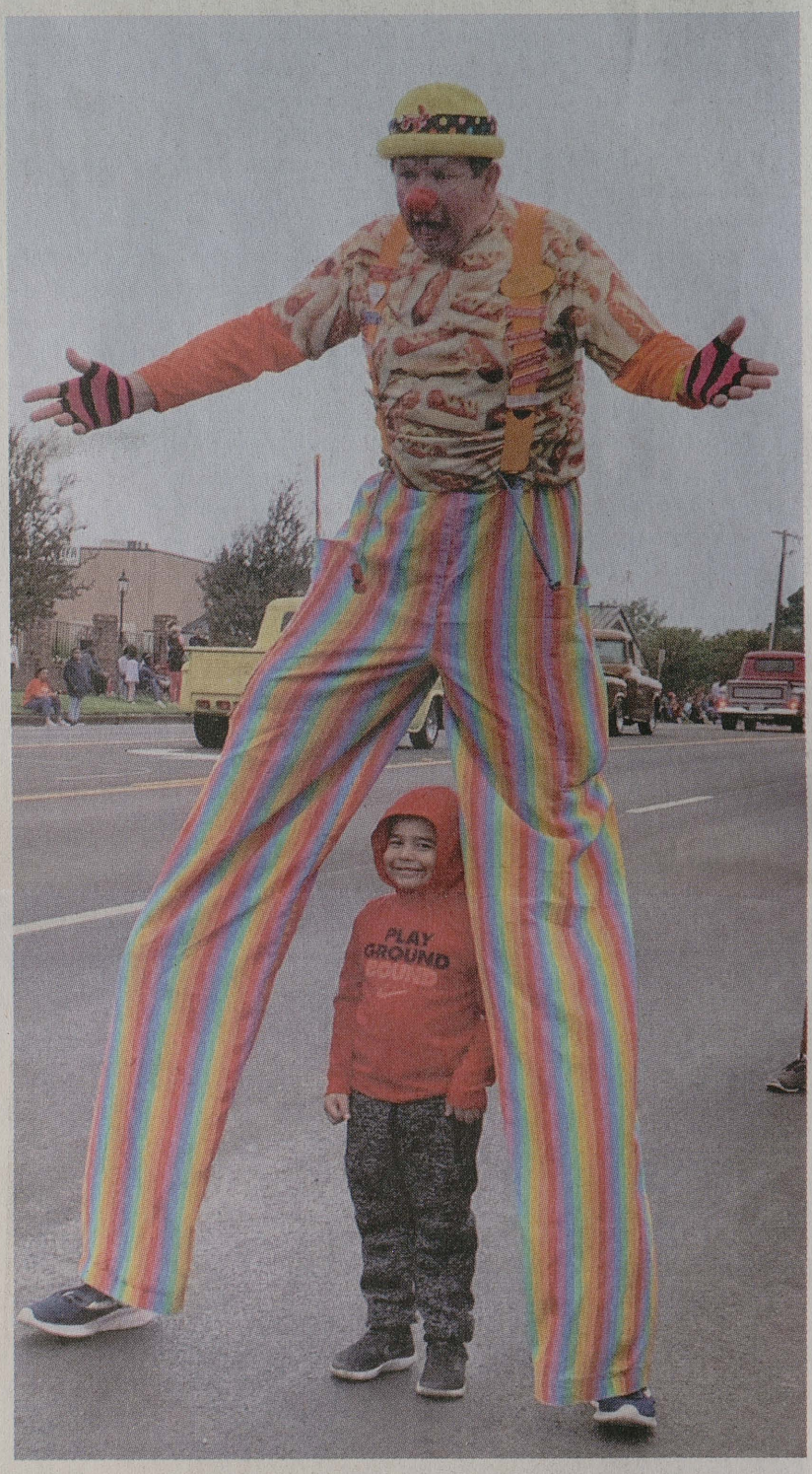


Photo by Cecilia Kohl
A clown on stilts entertained parade attendees.

Photo by Michael King
Crow Towing proudly hoisting the American flag high in the air.

Photo by Michael King
The Brookshire Grocery Company was represented with a megacart during the parade.

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